(b) Out of 274641 habitations in U.P., 168875 habitations have been covered fully, 96604 partially and the remaining 9161 habitations are yet to be provided potable drinking water. The Chief Minister's Conference held on 4-5 July, 1996 has recommended full coverage within the next 2 to 3 years and the States have been asked to make a plan accordingly.

(c) 1148 habitations in Barabanki district in U.P. are yet to be provided potable drinking water.

(d) It has been decided to provide potable drinking water to all the uncovered habitations in Barabanki district in U.P. and elsewhere in the country by 1997-98.

(e) and (f). An integrated rural water supply and sanitation project is being implemented in U.P. with assistance from the World Bank. The hilly districts included in the project are Nainital, Pithoragarh, Dehradun, Chamoli, Uttarkashi, Pouri, Tehri and Almora.

[English]

NDC Meeting

*473. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether NDC meeting has proposed to be convened to approve the Ninth Plan approach;

(b) if so, whether the Government have proposed changes in the existing Gadgil-Mukherjee formula for devolution of resources amongst States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the formation of Ninth Plan has been delayed; and

(e) if so, the time by which Ninth Plan is likely to be formulated and approved including the priorities of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) As per the present schedule, the Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan will be placed before the NDC in December, 1996.

(b) No, Sir. Government has not made any such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). The Ninth Plan is proposed to be put in place from the Ist April, 1997 which is the normal date for initiation of the Ninth Plan. The Approach Paper to the 9th Plan would inter-alia include the priorities of the Plan.

[Translation]

Allocation of LPG

*474. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria followed by the Union Government for allotment of LPG to the States;

(b) whether the State of Maharashtra is allotted their LPG quota on the basis of its population; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). Allotment of new gas connections is not made on State-wise basis. New LPG connections are released depending on total new customer enrolment at country level, slack available with distributors in the state, waiting lists and product availability. Efforts are however constantly on to release LPG connections to as many applicants and as early as possible. For this purpose, higher LPG availability is being planned by increasing the capacity of existing production sources and commissioning of new production facilities and new LPG import facilities. LPG import facilities at Kandla and Mangalore are expected to be commissioned during 1996-97 and more such facilities are contemplated. It is expected that by the year 2001, outstanding waitlists will be cleared and there will be only current waiting lists.

Deep Sea Fishing

*475. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Murari Committee has submitted its report regarding deep sea fishing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to implement these recommendations;

(d) whether any time limit has been fixed for the same;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have taken a decision thereon, so far; and

(g) if not, the reasons for not taking any steps on the recommendations of the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b). The Review Committee on Deep Sea Fishing Policy had submitted its report to the Government on 8th February, 1996. The recommendations are given in Statement attached.

(c) to (f). The recommendations have been examined in consultation with other concerned Ministries/Departments and decision on these recommendations would be taken shortly.

(g) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Recommendations of the Review Committee on Deep Sea Fishing Policy.

1. All permits issued for fishing by joint venture/ charter/lease/test fishing should immediately be cancelled subject to legal processes as may be required.

2. No renewal, extension or new licenses/permits be issue in future for fishing to joint venture/charter/ lease/test fishing vessles.

3. All licences/test permits for fishing may be made public documents and copy thereof made available for inspection in the office of the registered authority.

4. The areas already being exploited or which may be exploited in the medium term by fishermen operating traditional craft or mechanised vessels below 20 m size should not be permitted for exploitation by any vessels above 20 m. length except currently operated Indian vessels is which may operate in the current area for only 3 years subject to the recommendations 1 and 7.

5. Since the Indian mechanised boats below 20 m size have the capacity to fish in depths upto about 70-90m; on the West Coast, the distance from the shore represented by 150m depth line should be out of bounds for all vessels of more than 20m length except vessels mentioned at para 4. Where the 150m depth zone is less than 100 nautical miles from the shore, the distance upto 100 nautical miles should be reserved for Indian vessels less than 20m length. On the east coast, starting from Kanyakumari, Indian vessels below 20m size would have exclusive access upto 100m depth or 50 nautical miles from the shore whichever is farther except relaxation in Para 4. The depth zone would also be defined by coordinates indicating distance from the shore. Distance will be determined by National Hydrographic Office/Coast Guard/Fishery Survey of India.

6. In regard to Andaman and Nicobar and the Lakshadweep grounds of islands, a distance of 50 nautical miles from the shore would be reserved exclusively for Indian vessels below 20m length with proviso at para 4. Further, if so required, the limit would be defined taking into account the need to keep waters between islands reserved exclusively for Indian vessels, even if some portions fall beyond the limit of 50 nautical miles.

7. In the area open to the vessels above 20m length, resource specific vessels for tuna and tuna like fishes, squids and cuttle fish, deep sea fin-fishes in mid-water or pelagic regions and oceanic tuna may be allowed for exploitation by tuna long lining, tuna purse seining, squid jigging and mid-water trawling, provided these are defacto Indian owned registered vessels. The Indian owners should account for at least 51% debt as well as equity.

8. The fleet size for different fishing grounds may be fixed taking into account of the maximum sustainable yield and the need for conservation of resources.

9 In order to conserve fishery resources in our waters, to protect fishermen and to reduce conflicts in the sea, deep sea fishing regulations should be enacted by the Parliament after consulting the fishing community.

10. For preventing conflicts between the traditional, small mechanised, larger deep sea vessels strict vigilance to be exercised by the Coast Gurard. To attain this objective the Coast Guard should be strengthened, expanded, upgraded technically with the State-of-the-art system of navigation, surveillance and weaponary and properly tasked to prevent poaching by foreign vessles and observance of zone restriction by indigenous vessels. In case Coast Guard is not able to perform the task then by some other agency State or Central, would be identified to ensure that those vessels excluded from specific areas do not violate prohibitions.

11. The Government should take active steps as well as make finances available for upgradation of technological skills and equipment used by the traditional fishermen, for mechanised boats and the Indian deep sea fishing fleet so that each can effectively fish in the areas reserved for it by law or usage. Duty concessions and concessional finance should be made available for both navigational as well as fishing equipment aimed at competence upgradation to the state-of-the-art level to all the three categories with priority to the traditional sector.

12. Traditional and small mechanised sector should be assisted by adequate regular supply of fuel and by providing HSD and kerosene and by providing subsidy taking into account the benefits given to deep sea fishing vessels.

13. All types of marine fisheries should come under one Ministry. The Government should also consider setting up a Fishery Authority of India to function in the manner in which such authorities set up in other countries function and to be responsible for formulation of policies as well as their implementation.

14. The fishery Survey of India should also be technically upgraded by induction of the modern technology and equipment so that it can identify and map the location of all types of fish, study impact of different technologies and ecological changes. There should be proper coordination and cooperation between the National Remote Sensing Agencies and the Fishery Survey of India for this purpose.

15. The Government should give priority to the creation of the infrastructure needed for preventing

wastage of fishery resources which is occurring through throwing away by-catch. This may be achieved by providing a chain of cold storages, ice factories, fish processing facilities, fish meal and feed manufacturing for value addition to the products of fishermen and their cooperatives.

16. Infrastructure facilities such as fishing harbours for the existing and modern upgraded craft along East and West Coasts as well as in island groups of Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands may be created on priority basis.

17. Fishermen/fisherwomen and their cooperatives may be provided with financial assistance for upgradation and acquisition of larger vessels for marketing and other related activities.

18. The Government should give priority to training fishermen/fisherwomen in handling new equipment, larger vessels and new fishing techniques besides fish handling and processing aspects.

19. Government should take effective steps to tackle the menace of pollutants/effluents/sewage let out by industries which affects marine life adversely.

20. Government should take a decision on the recommendations of the Committee within a period of six months.

21. The deep sea fishing policy should be revised periodically say every 3-5 years.

State Electricity Boards

*476. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the losses incurred by the State Electricity Boards during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the investments made in each State Electricity Board;

(c) whether these investments are not giving expective results;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to maximise the returns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) In terms of the provisions of sub-Section 69 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the accounts of State Electricity Boards are required to be forwarded to the Central Electricity Authority within six months of the close of the year to which the accounts relate. As such, the accounts, for the year 1995-96 are not available. However, a Statement-I showing the losses incurred by the State State Electricity Boards (SEBs) after taking into account the rural electrification subsidy as provided for in the accounts for the 3 years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is attached.

(b) A statement-II indicating approved outlay for the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97) and the expenditure/ revised estimates upto 1995-96 in respect of the SEBs is enclosed.

(c) and (d). In accordance with Section 59 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the SEBs are required to earn a minimum Rate of Return (ROR) of 3% on their Net Fixed Assets in service after providing for depreciation and interest charges. While, some of the SEBs have earned 3% ROR or more, after taking into account RE subsidy as provided in the accounts, during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, the other SEBs have not been able to earn the same, as may be seen from the Statement-III attached.

(e) For maximising the returns, State Governments/ SEBs have been advised, from time to time, to undertake measures such as rationalisation of tariff, regular payment of rural electrification subsidy, improvement in Plant Load Factor, reduction in transmission and distribution losses, renovation and modernisation of the existing thermal power stations and implementation of new power projects as per time schedule etc.

STATEMENT-I

Yearly losses incurred by the State Electricity Boards after taking into account RE subsidy as provided in the Accounts during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the SEB	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	Bihar	-	-	(U) -80.32
2.	Haryana	-335.67	-410.90	-
3.	Punjab	-118.53	-117.90	(A) -5.53
4.	W. B.	-28.35	-	-
5.	Assam	-70.68	-264.60	(P) -269.81
6.	Meghalaya	-5.96	-5.97	(P) -10.24

P - Provisional

A - Audited

U - Un-Audited

Note : Dash shows that the Boards were in surplus and did not incur loss.